



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 14, 1998
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Consumer Price Index, April 1998**

In April, the CPI advanced 0.8% from a year earlier. This marks the third consecutive month this year-over-year measure of inflation fell.

2
- **Provincial gross domestic product, 1997**

In 1997, the pace of economic expansion accelerated in most provinces, with Alberta leading the way with 6.5% growth.

5

OTHER RELEASES

- | | |
|--|----|
| Consumption and production of eggs and poultry meat, 1997 | 13 |
| Steel primary forms, week ending May 9, 1998 | 13 |
| Railway carloadings, nine-day period ending April 30, 1998 | 13 |
| Annual Survey of Manufactures, 1996 | 13 |

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

15

Household spending 1996

The microdata file for the 1996 Survey of Family Expenditures (FAMEX) is now available on CD-ROM (62M0001XCB, \$3,000). This is the latest in a series of files produced for the 1969, 1978, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1990 and 1992 Family Expenditure Surveys.

It contains 1996 household spending data for Canada (10 provinces), as well as data on household characteristics, income, and selected expenditure items from over 10,000 households. All records have been thoroughly screened to ensure the anonymity of respondents.

For further information, or to order, contact the Dissemination Unit (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; expenditure@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.

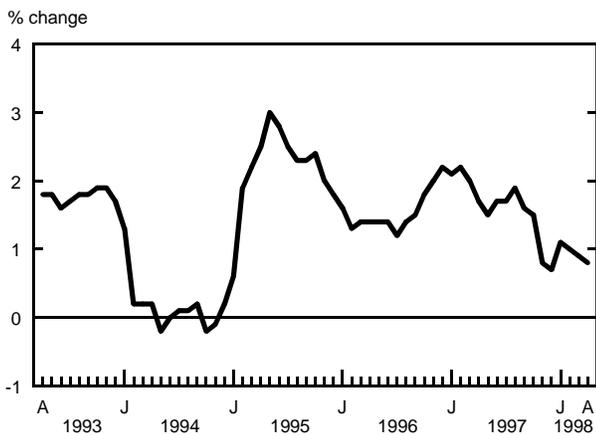
MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer Price Index

April 1998

In April, consumers across Canada paid 0.8% more than they did a year earlier for the basket of goods and services that make up the Consumer Price Index (CPI). April's year-over-year increase was lower than those recorded in January (+1.1%), February (+1.0%) or March (+0.9%), but higher than the 0.7% increase in December 1997.

Percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from the same month of the previous year



Compared with April 1997, consumers paid significantly higher prices for fresh vegetables, food from restaurants, telephone services, tuition fees, tobacco products and travel services. They benefited from falling gasoline and fuel oil charges, lower computer prices, and declining mortgage interest costs.

A 0.1% drop between March and April

Between March and April 1998, consumers saw a small 0.1% decline in overall prices. Lower charges for purchasing and leasing new vehicles, women's clothing, food from stores, home fuel, telephone services and air travel were largely offset by higher prices for gasoline, homeowners' maintenance and repair, traveller accommodation, and dental care.

Note to readers

April's issue of The Consumer Price Index features an analytical article titled "Changing of the Consumer Price Index weights from 1992 to 1996: An analysis of the spending patterns of Canadians."

According to the article, in 1996 relative to 1992, Canadians spent a larger proportion of their family budget on computer equipment and telephone services, but spent a smaller proportion on food in restaurants and on automobiles, the latter reflecting a tendency to keep vehicles longer.

According to Statistics Canada, which has just updated the basket of goods and services used in the calculation of the Consumer Price Index, the weights increased for three major components—recreation, education and reading, health and personal care, and household operations and furnishings—and decreased for three others—food, transportation, and clothing—decreased. Weights of the shelter component remained stable between 1992 and 1996, as lower mortgage interest costs were largely offset by higher property taxes and insurance premiums.

The report also observes that Canadian consumers are making greater use of telephone services, especially in the form of long distance calls, following the deregulation of the telecommunications market in 1994, which resulted in lower prices in this sector. Similarly, the gradual expansion of services available on the Internet and a relative decrease in computer prices have increased demand for these commodities. Finally, while the expenditure weights of transportation, a major CPI component, have decreased, those allocated to another component, leasing of automotive vehicles, have increased as a result of the rising popularity of this option across the country.

Lower auto prices were seen in April, as a large Canadian manufacturer offered rebates on a selection of vehicles in an attempt gain market share.

Women's clothing prices fell an average 2.4%. Price declines were observed in all categories of women's garments except sportswear. Sale prices were prevalent, suggesting weaker demand.

The cost of food purchased from stores slipped 0.4% in April. A decline in the price of meat was primarily attributable to promotions on turkey and ham during the Easter holiday period. Fresh vegetable prices moderated slightly after a large jump in March.

Price reductions in the competitive long-distance telephone market led to an average 1.3% decline in the overall price of telephone service in April.

Overall, consumers paid 0.1% more than in March for energy, a result of various offsetting movements. Fuel oil and gasoline prices had fallen in tandem from December to March, reflecting lower crude oil prices. In April, gasoline prices rose 1.1%, whereas fuel oil prices

continued to fall. Natural gas prices increased in Alberta but fell in Ontario.

Travellers also faced a mixed picture. Air flights cost less than in March, whereas accommodation cost more.

The cost of homeowners' maintenance and repairs advanced due to returns to regular prices from special prices.

An rise in the dental care index was mainly attributable to the introduction of the suggested fee guides published by provincial dental associations.

Provincial highlights

Compared with April 1997, the province exhibiting the largest average price increases was Saskatchewan (+1.5%), while Prince Edward Island was the only province to experience an overall price decline (-0.6%).

In Saskatchewan, price rises substantially higher than corresponding national increases were observed for shelter (especially property taxes, new houses and piped gas), vehicle insurance, and telephone services. In Prince Edward Island, the drop in overall prices was largely due to falling energy rates (fuel oil, gasoline and electricity) and lower new house prices.

From March to April 1998, Alberta recorded the highest average price increases (+0.5%) among provinces; New Brunswick posted the largest average price decreases (-0.4%).

Please note that, in order to reduce confusion and uncertainty in contractual negotiations, Statistics Canada has reinstated its policy of providing all-items indexes on official time bases prior to 1986. For further information, contact Prices Division or any Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9956.

The April 1998 issue of *The Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

The May 1998 Consumer Price Index will be released on June 19. Available at 7:00 a.m. on release day at www.statcan.ca.

For further information on this release, contact Prices Division (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-2848; infounit@statcan.ca)

Consumer Price Index and its major components (1992=100)

	April 1998	March 1998	April 1997	March 1998 to April 1998	April 1997 to April 1998
	unadjusted				
	% change				
All-items	108.3	108.4	107.4	-0.1	0.8
Food	108.9	109.2	107.1	-0.3	1.7
Shelter	103.5	103.4	103.5	0.1	0.0
Household operations and furnishings	108.4	108.5	106.8	-0.1	1.5
Clothing and footwear	103.8	104.7	103.9	-0.9	-0.1
Transportation	120.2	120.3	121.1	-0.1	-0.7
Health and personal care	107.7	107.2	106.1	0.5	1.5
Recreation, education and reading	116.4	116.4	113.6	0.0	2.5
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	92.2	92.1	88.8	0.1	3.8
Goods	105.6	105.9	105.6	-0.3	0.0
Services	111.5	111.3	109.5	0.2	1.8
All-items excluding food and energy	108.7	108.7	107.4	0.0	1.2
Energy	103.7	103.6	107.7	0.1	-3.7
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1992	92.3	92.3	93.1		
All-items (1986=100)	138.7				

**Consumer Price Index for the province, Whitehorse and Yellowknife
(1992=100)**

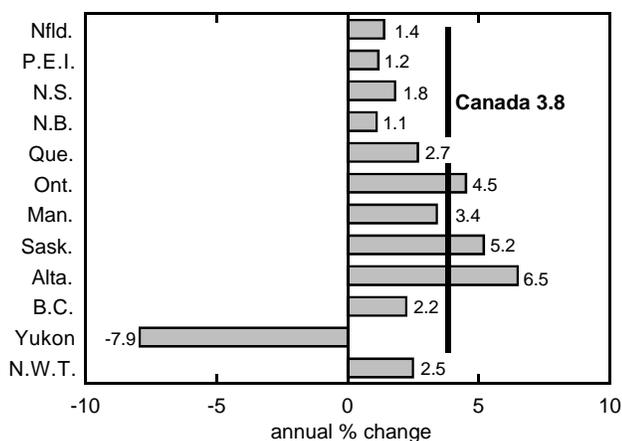
	April 1998	March 1998	April 1997	March 1998 to April 1998	April 1997 to April 1998
	unadjusted				
	% change				
Newfoundland	108.4	108.3	107.6	0.1	0.7
Prince Edward Island	106.3	106.6	106.9	-0.3	-0.6
Nova Scotia	108.4	108.6	107.8	-0.2	0.6
New Brunswick	107.3	107.7	107.0	-0.4	0.3
Quebec	106.2	106.1	104.7	0.1	1.4
Ontario	108.5	108.8	107.8	-0.3	0.6
Manitoba	112.3	112.3	111.4	0.0	0.8
Saskatchewan	111.4	111.3	109.8	0.1	1.5
Alberta	110.3	109.8	109.0	0.5	1.2
British Columbia	109.8	109.8	109.6	0.0	0.2
Whitehorse	110.5	110.7	109.2	-0.2	1.2
Yellowknife	107.8	107.7	108.0	0.1	-0.2



Provincial gross domestic product 1997

Several trends dominated the Canadian economic landscape in 1997. Low interest rates and inflation contributed to heightened business and consumer confidence. Corporate profits rebounded after a weak 1996, allowing the financing of numerous capital projects. Despite weak growth in personal income, consumers took advantage of low interest rates to unleash pent-up demand, leading to a drop in personal saving.

1997 GDP (at 1992 prices)



While consumer expenditure and business investment picked up, the trade balance weakened, and so domestic demand usurped exports as the main contributor to economic growth. The private sector led the way, with the impact of government austerity measures felt virtually everywhere.

Fuelled by another banner year in the oil patch, the Alberta economy kicked into high gear, posting 6.5% growth. Related industries prospered, with considerable spin-off activity in engineering services and manufacturing.

Saskatchewan also benefited from increased activity in oil and gas, with 5.2% growth in real GDP. Agriculture had a difficult year, however, with falling wheat prices triggering income declines.

Led by sharp increases in the automotive and high-tech sectors, growth accelerated to 4.5% in Ontario. Strength was evident throughout the economy as profits rebounded and fixed capital investment grew rapidly.

Growth reached 2.7% in Quebec, an acceleration from the previous two years. The strong performance of high-tech firms and healthy advances in more traditional

Note to readers

The historical revision of the national accounts back to 1961, released in December 1997, had a threefold objective: bring the Canadian system of national accounts into line with the latest international guidelines (System of National Accounts 1993, ISBN 92-1-161352-3), change the base year of the constant price estimates and price indexes from 1986 to 1992, and incorporate new data sources and statistical revisions.

With today's release, the historical revision of the national accounts is now carried over to the provincial accounts (production accounts by industry, and income and expenditure accounts) back to 1992. The production accounts present estimates of real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, and are expressed at constant prices. The income accounts show the incomes earned in current production and are expressed at current prices. The expenditure accounts show the final sales of current production and are presented both at current and at constant prices.

In the text of this release, all references to production (output) and to expenditure are at constant prices; all references to income are at current prices.

For further information, contact Catherine Bertrand (613-951-4115), Pierre Généreux (613-951-3650), Michel Vallières (613-951-0438), Michel Pascal (613-951-3797), Anna MacDonald (613-951-3784), Roger Jullion (613-951-9155) or Karen Wilson (613-951-0439), System of National Accounts Branch.

industries—like sawmills, pulp and paper, and textile manufacturing—offset weaker performances in other industries.

GDP grew 3.4% in Manitoba. Another good harvest, despite the flood, and its spin-off effects on the economy were the main engines of growth.

British Columbia recorded 2.2% growth, below the national average for a third year. The advance was concentrated in services as goods production fell.

In Prince Edward Island, GDP increased 1.2% despite the substantial drop in construction activity following the completion of Confederation Bridge. A bumper potato crop, combined with a large increase in potato processing, accounted for the lion's share of the gain.

The New Brunswick economy grew 1.1%, extending a lacklustre performance that began a year earlier. Government austerity measures contributed to the slowdown, along with mine closures and declining fixed capital investment after the completion of major construction projects.

Nova Scotia recorded a much better performance than the previous year, but at 1.8%, growth remained below the Canadian average. The province benefited modestly from construction related to the Sable Island gas project.

In decline a year earlier, the Newfoundland economy grew 1.4%. Higher consumer spending,

increased fish-landings and a post-strike recovery in iron ore production more than offset the winding-down of the construction of the Hibernia oil platform.

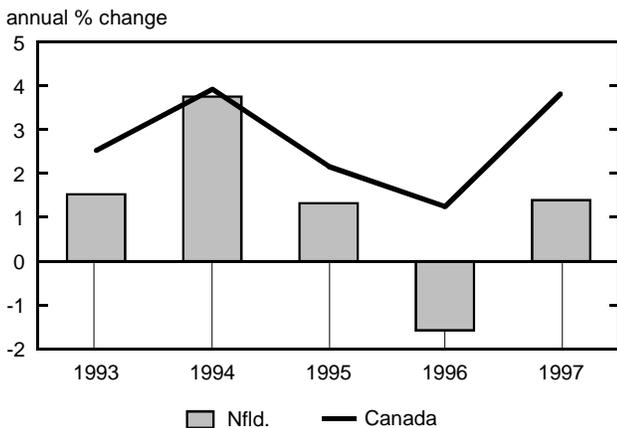
The two territories contrasted one another in terms of economic performance. Construction at the site of Canada's first diamond mine boosted growth in the Northwest Territories to 2.5%. By contrast, the closure of the Faro mine for most of the last year pulled down GDP in the Yukon (-7.9%).

Economic growth resumes in Newfoundland

Following the previous year's downturn, the Newfoundland economy advanced 1.4% in 1997. The economy benefited from the first oil from Hibernia, a post-strike recovery in iron ore production, more tourism, increased fish-landings, and higher consumer spending. These positive factors offset the reduction in economic activity that followed the winding-down of construction of the Hibernia platform.

Retailers and wholesalers alike benefited from the pickup in economic activity. Consumer spending on durable goods rallied, fuelled by lower interest rates. Corporate profits climbed almost 20%, whereas personal income declined for a second year, largely due to lower transfers from governments.

Newfoundland's GDP at 1992 prices



Growth in Prince Edward Island despite bridge completion

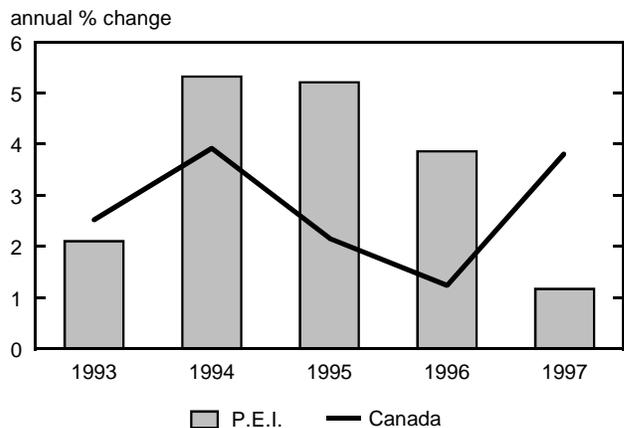
Prince Edward Island's economy grew a moderate 1.2% in 1997, despite the decline in construction activity after the completion of Confederation Bridge that links the province to New Brunswick. As expected, investment in non-residential structures tumbled to

one-third its 1996 level. In parallel, suppliers, such as engineers and concrete product manufacturers, scaled back their activities.

However, increases in other industries offset the decline in construction. Another bumper potato crop, combined with a large increase in potato processing, accounted for the lion's share of the gain. The lobster catch was comparable to the prior two years, even though the opening of the spring lobster season was delayed. Fish processing rebounded, and telecommunications repeated its strong showing of 1996.

Consumer spending rose significantly, despite a decline in personal income after a number of years of growth. Especially notable were motor vehicle sales, up 14.4% after a slight decline in 1996. Corporate profits showed considerable strength, jumping almost 25%.

Prince Edward Island's GDP at 1992 prices



Widespread gains in the Nova Scotia business sector

The Nova Scotia economy expanded 1.8% in 1997, an acceleration from 1996, but still below the national average of 3.8%. Output rose 3.6% in the private sector, but declined in the public sector as governments continued to cut payrolls.

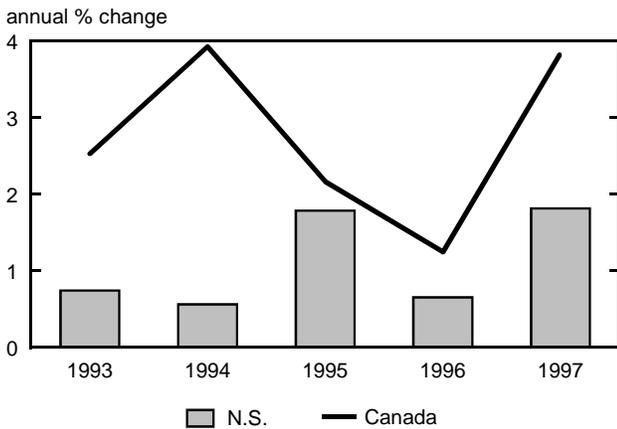
Fisheries got a boost from larger catches of scallops and shrimp, and fish processors raised output. Other bright spots in the economy were telecommunications and business services.

Extraction of crude oil declined again, to just half the level of three years earlier. Coal mines also reduced tonnage. On the other hand, investment in fixed capital increased briskly with the spending on

road infrastructure and on the Sable Island gas project. Investment in the pulp and paper industry resulted in soaring purchases of machinery and equipment, up more than 50% from 1996.

Following the national trend, consumer spending increased significantly, outstripping gains in personal disposable income, resulting in negative personal saving.

Nova Scotia's GDP at 1992 prices



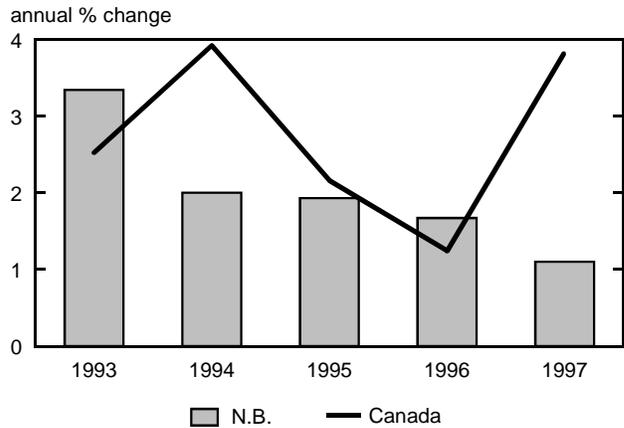
Growth slows in New Brunswick

The New Brunswick economy grew 1.1 % in 1997, extending a slowdown that began a year earlier. The economic picture was mixed. The negative effects of government austerity measures, the end of the frigate program, the completion of major construction projects, and mine closures were counterbalanced by strong growth in other industries.

Growth was centred in business services, telecommunications and wholesale trade. Potato processors benefited from a near-record potato crop. Forestry and its downstream industries, key sectors in New Brunswick, had a mixed year. Output was down in sawmills, newsprint, and pulp and paper production, but were up significantly in paperboard and particleboard manufacturing.

Other areas suffered, however. The completion of Confederation Bridge and the winding-up of major expansion work by pulp and paper mills triggered a marked drop in construction. The growth of consumer spending slowed in tandem with that of personal disposable income.

New Brunswick's GDP at 1992 prices



Quebec economy picks up momentum

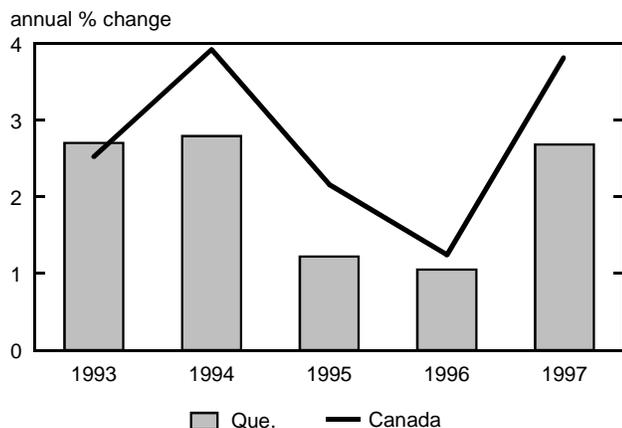
The Quebec economy picked up momentum in 1997, but the 2.7% growth continued to lag the national average. Gains in manufacturing, telecommunications and business services more than offset a decline in government services.

High-tech firms had a stellar performance. Producers of telecommunications equipment have increased output seven-fold since 1992. Telecommunications carriers and computer service firms both continued to thrive. Other manufacturing industries also did well, notably sawmills, newsprint and paper products, clothing and textile products, pharmaceuticals, and industrial chemicals. Corporate profits rebounded, more than erasing the previous year's decline.

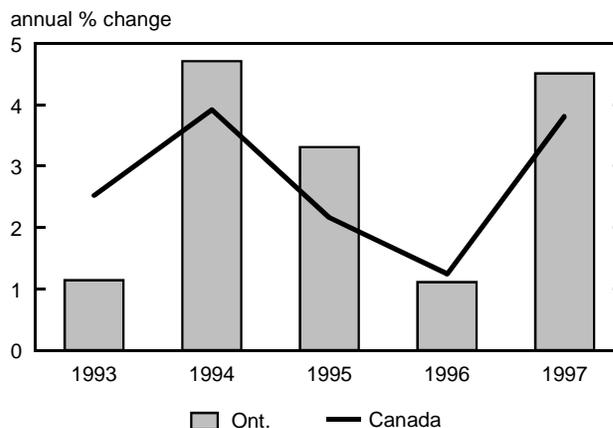
The turnaround in residential construction that began in 1996 continued. Almost 26,000 new dwellings were started, although this was still a far cry from the 70,000 starts per year recorded a decade earlier. Business investment in non-residential structures fell 6%, the fourth consecutive decline.

Following the national trend, consumers boosted spending on durable goods, but overall growth in personal expenditure lagged the Canadian average. Disposable income edged ahead 0.6%.

Quebec's GDP at 1992 prices



Ontario's GDP at 1992 prices



Boom in manufacturing propels Ontario expansion

The expansion accelerated in Ontario, where GDP increased 4.5%. A burgeoning manufacturing industry and its spin-off effects throughout the economy were the main engines of growth.

Overall, manufacturing output jumped 7%. Almost every major group reported healthy gains, with the automotive and high-tech industries leading the way. Spurred by higher domestic and export demand, automakers continued to break production records. Makers of auto parts also had a banner year.

High-tech industries flourished. Production of telecommunications equipment rose 16%, largely due to cellular phones and telephone switches for long distance carriers.

Despite high-profile projects—such as the Air Canada Centre in Toronto for basketball and hockey and the Pearson Airport expansion—the growth in non-residential construction decelerated. By contrast, business investment in machinery and equipment increased strongly, while residential construction increased nearly 20%, the highest in 10 years. The resulting home-furnishings boom along with substantially higher vehicle sales were reflected in spending on consumer durable goods, which grew significantly.

Growth in personal income, though moderate, accelerated to 2.7%.

Another good year for Manitoba

Following three years of sustained growth, the Manitoba economy continued to perform well in 1997, with a 3.4% increase. Another good harvest and its spin-off effects on manufacturing, construction and wholesale trade were the principal contributors.

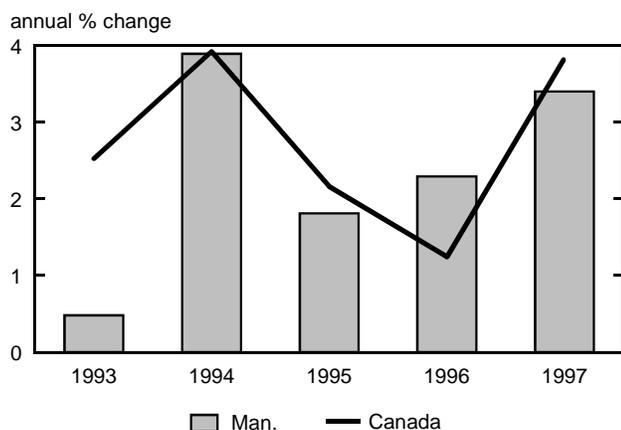
While agricultural production declined, due in part to the Red River flood, 1997 was still a strong year. Output was almost 25% higher than in 1993, when crops also suffered from heavy rains. An excellent canola crop, the second largest on record, offset lower harvests of wheat, oats and barley. The potato crop was down only marginally from 1996, which was the best year ever.

Paralleling the boom in agricultural production, many farm-related industries continued to thrive and expand. New agriculture-related factories have recently been completed or are on the drawing board. Farm equipment makers have quadrupled production since 1991, making Manitoba the leading province in this field.

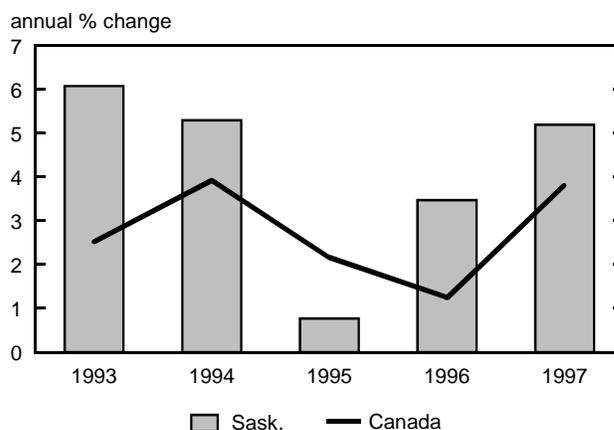
An increase of nearly 30% in corporate profits paralleled an impressive showing in business investment in fixed capital, with investment in plant and equipment expanding almost 20%.

Although labour-income growth lagged the national average, consumer spending on durable goods was strong, as it was elsewhere in Canada. Sales of new vehicles increased more than 15% a the second consecutive year.

Manitoba's GDP at 1992 prices



Saskatchewan's GDP at 1992 prices



Robust economic performance in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan's GDP jumped 5.2% in 1997, exceeding the 3.5% growth in 1996, when the province outperformed the rest of the country. In contrast to 1996, however, energy industries were last year's main source of strength, while agriculture had a difficult year.

Continuing high demand for crude oil on foreign markets sparked a 7% increase in output, this on top of the 10% advance in 1996. Crude production has doubled since prices collapsed in 1986. Drilling and its associated services surged more than 70%. Investment in oil and gas facilities continued at a vigorous pace, spurring the manufacture of related products.

Agriculture production fell 8%, following poor grain crops. Newly popular crops like lentils also declined appreciably, whereas the canola crop bounced back after a two-year drop. By contrast, food processors and manufacturers of farm equipment thrived, as did wholesalers—who recorded the best performance in the country. Capital spending on farm implements was also strong, pushing investment in machinery and equipment up 25%.

Consumer spending on durable goods, particularly motor vehicles, showed considerable strength, spurred by low interest rates and a reduction in the provincial sales tax. Personal incomes declined, pulled down by the agricultural sector's poor performance. Strength in consumer spending, combined with falling personal disposable income, resulted in negative personal saving.

Alberta's economy in high gear

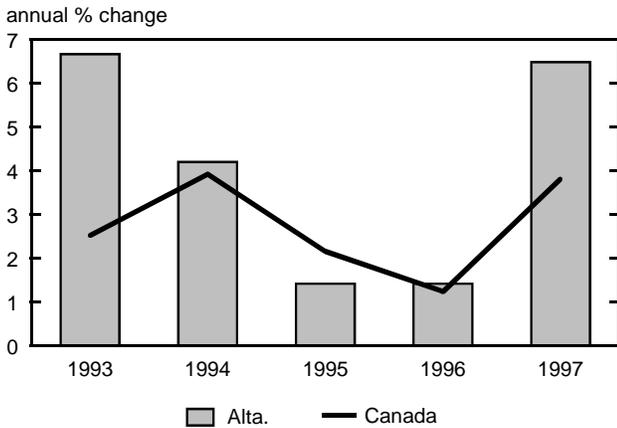
Alberta's economy grew at a swift 6.5% pace in 1997—the best growth rate in the country. Fuelled by another banner year in the oil patch, the economy kicked into high gear and generated 44,000 new jobs—the highest job creation rate in the country.

The search for new oil and gas deposits skyrocketed. The number of wells drilled reached a record for a second year in a row and has tripled since the beginning of the decade. Increases in production and throughput of crude oil and natural gas were limited, however, as pipelines operated at near capacity. The strength in the oil patch resulted in considerable spin-off activity in engineering services and manufacturing. Production of oil field machinery, steel pipes, and other fabricated metal products increased more than 20%. Overall, manufacturing output jumped 13%, twice the national rate.

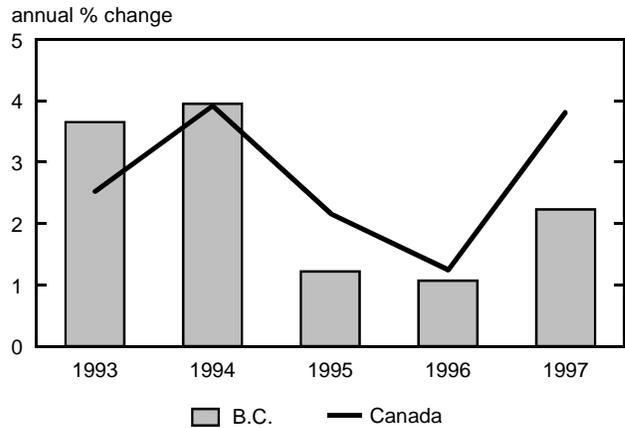
Construction of shopping centres, warehouses and new plants picked up significantly. Business purchases of machinery and equipment also increased considerably.

As growth in personal income accelerated, consumer spending rose 5.3%, led by durable goods. New vehicle sales climbed more than 25%. Investment in residential construction grew 35%, as housing starts soared.

Alberta's GDP at 1992 prices



British Columbia's GDP at 1992 prices



Moderate growth in British Columbia

The economy in British Columbia grew 2.2% in 1997, up from recent years. The province failed, however, to surpass the national average for a third year in a row (it had done so in each of the preceding eight years).

Growth in services-producing industries was offset by lower output in goods-producing sectors. Retailers and wholesalers enjoyed their best year in some time. However, continued declines in logging and its downstream industries put a damper on the economy.

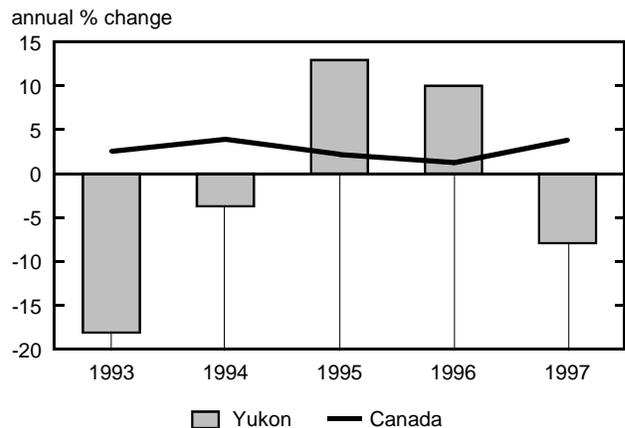
Corporate profits rallied, but did not recover fully from the previous year's decline. Business investment in non-residential structures and equipment grew more than 10%, but still lagged the Canadian average. Like elsewhere in Canada, growth in consumer spending accelerated, led by durable-goods purchases. Personal income posted moderate gains.

Economic roller coaster continues in Yukon

Economic activity in the Yukon was severely hampered by the closure of the Faro lead-zinc mine in late 1996, resulting in a 7.9% decline in GDP in 1997. Mining output plunged 42%, and exports of metal ores collapsed. The downturn in the mining sector was felt in related industries.

A couple of bright spots shone in Yukon's economy, however. Expanded gold mining activity and more tourism helped to soften the impact of the mine closure. Business investment in fixed capital posted healthy gains.

Yukon's GDP at 1992 prices



Northwest Territories benefit from diamond mine construction

Construction at the site of Canada's first diamond mine boosted the Northwest Territories' GDP growth to 2.5% in 1997, despite other mine shutdowns and a refinery closure. Construction at the new diamond mine led to a increased investment in non-residential structures (+36%). Greater construction activity benefited its related industries such as trucking, architects and engineers.

Corporations continued to post healthy profit growth (+10.8%), after several years of steady increases. Personal income increased moderately (+1.6%).

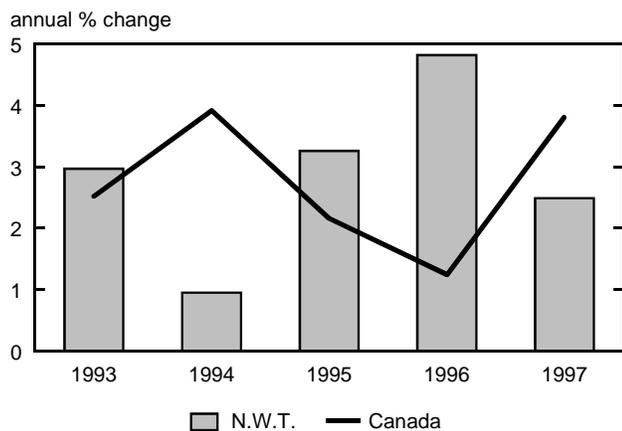
Available on CANSIM: matrices 8406-8429 and 9000-9231.

Provincial economic accounts: annual estimates, 1997 (13-213-PPB, \$50) is now available. They can also be obtained on diskette (13-213-XDB, \$80). To purchase either of these products, contact the client services officer (613-951-3640; iea-crd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

To purchase data on provincial GDP by industry at factor cost, contact Kim Lauzon (613-951-9417; lauzonk@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.

For further information on this release, contact Catherine Bertrand (613-951-4115), or Pierre Généreux (613-951-3650), System of National Accounts Branch.

Northwest Territories' GDP at 1992 prices



GDP at market prices at 1992 prices

	1997	1994	1995	1996	1997
	\$ millions	annual % change			
Canada	799,142	3.9	2.2	1.2	3.8
Newfoundland	10,147	3.8	1.3	-1.6	1.4
Prince Edward Island	2,777	5.3	5.2	3.9	1.2
Nova Scotia	19,151	0.6	1.8	0.6	1.8
New Brunswick	15,707	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.1
Quebec	174,938	2.8	1.2	1.0	2.7
Ontario	329,851	4.7	3.3	1.1	4.5
Manitoba	27,282	3.9	1.8	2.3	3.4
Saskatchewan	25,931	5.3	0.8	3.5	5.2
Alberta	90,452	4.2	1.4	1.4	6.5
British Columbia	98,201	3.9	1.2	1.1	2.2
Yukon	1,034	-3.7	12.9	10.0	-7.9
Northwest Territories	2,721	0.9	3.3	4.8	2.5

GDP at factor cost at 1992 prices

	1997	1994	1995	1996	1997
	\$ millions	annual % change			
Canada	691,363	3.9	1.9	1.6	3.9
Newfoundland	8,482	3.2	0.2	-1.1	1.7
Prince Edward Island	2,410	3.4	4.2	3.1	1.9
Nova Scotia	16,493	0.4	1.2	0.5	2.0
New Brunswick	12,944	2.7	2.3	1.0	0.7
Quebec	147,381	3.4	0.7	0.9	2.4
Ontario	281,574	3.8	2.7	1.7	4.4
Manitoba	24,456	3.7	2.6	2.9	4.5
Saskatchewan	23,199	4.9	0.5	3.7	6.0
Alberta	84,908	5.9	1.9	2.5	7.5
British Columbia	86,027	4.1	1.5	1.0	2.3
Yukon	998	-2.4	13.7	10.4	-5.9
Northwest Territories	2,238	4.2	2.3	0.8	1.8

Final domestic demand at 1992 prices

	1997	1994	1995	1996	1997
	\$ millions	annual % change			
Canada	782,196	2.7	0.4	2.0	4.4
Newfoundland	12,482	3.6	0.1	-4.7	2.6
Prince Edward Island	3,006	3.5	2.8	2.7	-2.5
Nova Scotia	23,146	0.9	-0.6	1.1	4.7
New Brunswick	16,984	-0.3	1.4	2.7	-0.3
Quebec	171,605	1.5	-1.1	2.0	2.2
Ontario	301,587	2.4	1.2	2.1	4.9
Manitoba	27,609	1.5	1.7	2.0	3.7
Saskatchewan	26,558	3.2	2.3	3.3	7.1
Alberta	87,669	4.7	0.6	2.8	8.9
British Columbia	105,374	4.5	-0.1	1.7	3.7
Yukon	1,310	-0.9	7.6	-2.2	2.3
Northwest Territories	3,090	-0.1	3.2	0.9	4.7

Personal expenditure on consumer goods and services at 1992 prices

	1997	1994	1995	1996	1997
	\$ millions	annual % change			
Canada	469,282	3.1	1.7	2.4	3.9
Newfoundland	6,872	1.9	0.9	1.0	2.9
Prince Edward Island	1,765	2.2	2.7	2.8	1.7
Nova Scotia	13,366	2.6	1.0	1.9	3.1
New Brunswick	10,367	1.5	2.0	2.5	2.0
Quebec	105,423	2.7	1.1	1.8	2.9
Ontario	185,205	3.0	2.0	2.1	4.4
Manitoba	16,663	2.7	2.0	2.1	2.2
Saskatchewan	15,177	3.7	2.3	2.9	3.6
Alberta	47,805	4.1	1.5	3.2	5.3
British Columbia	64,772	4.2	2.2	3.4	4.3
Yukon	556	1.6	4.1	3.6	1.6
Northwest Territories	1,002	3.8	2.8	1.6	2.5

OTHER RELEASES

Consumption and production of eggs and poultry meat

1997

Canadians ate more eggs and poultry in 1997. Egg consumption averaged 14.9 dozen per Canadian last year, up 0.7% from 1996. Rising imports of processed eggs accounted for the slight increase.

Egg production has steadily increased over the last six years. In 1997, Canadian farmers produced 494 million dozen eggs, up from 466 million dozen in 1990.

Canadians consumed on average 31.4 kilograms of poultry meat in 1997, compared with 30.4 kilograms the year before. Chicken led the way and accounted for three-fourths of the total poultry meat consumed. Canadians are shifting toward processed chicken and toward eating chicken away from home. Chicken consumption has risen 2.4% from 1996.

Over the past two decades, red meat consumption has gradually decreased, whereas consumption of poultry meat has been rising. However, Canadians still choose to eat more red meat than poultry.

Overall, farmers produced 917 053 metric tonnes of poultry meat in 1997 up 6.3 % from 1995. Chicken farmers produced 750 257 tonnes of meat, 8% growth over the last two years. Turkey production remained fairly stable at 142 273 tonnes in 1997. Unlike American consumers, Canadians still consider turkey to be a seasonal commodity. There has been some growth, however, in the processed turkey market.

Note: Estimates for laying hens in small flocks have been adjusted to reflect the results of the 1996 Census of Agriculture. The impact of the revisions on the egg production totals for 1996 and 1997 is figured to be -1.1% and -0.8%, respectively.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1136, 1137, 1139-1141 and 1144.

For further information on this release, contact Sandy Gielfeldt (613-951-2505), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending May 9, 1998 (preliminary)

Production of steel primary forms for the week ending May 9, 1998 totalled 297 419 metric tonnes, down 5.9%

from 315 996 tonnes a week earlier and down 3.6% from 308 613 tonnes a year earlier.

The year-to-date total at the end of the week was 5 735 215 tonnes, an 8% increase compared with 5 310 007 tonnes for the same period in 1997.

For further information on this release, contact Huguette Montcalm (613-951-9827; monthug@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Nine-day period ending April 30, 1998

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the nine-day period ending April 30, 1998, decreased 8.3% to 6.3 million tonnes from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 6.1%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) totalled 482 000 tonnes, a 1.7% decrease from the same nine-day period of last year. The year-to-date figures show a decline of 6.4% from the 1997 period.

Total traffic (carloadings and intermodal) fell 7.9% during the nine days compared with a year earlier. The 1998 year-to-date total was 86.5 million tonnes, a 4.5% increase from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; larocque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Annual Survey of Manufactures

1996

The Annual Survey of Manufactures provides information on over 200 different industries. Principal statistics for each industry are released on CANSIM as they become available. Data for the industries listed in the following table are now available. Data for 199 industries have now been released.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5385, 5398, 5371, 5404, 5457, 5497, 5547, 6876, 6879, 6884, 6887 and 6892.

Data for the industries listed in the table appear in *Food industries* (32-250-XPB, \$40), *Beverage*

and tobacco products Industries (32-251-XPB, \$40), Clothing industries (34-252-XPB, \$40), Printing, publishing and allied industries (36-251-XPB, \$40), Machinery industries (except electrical machinery) (42-250-XPB, \$40), Chemical and chemical products industries (46-250-XPB, \$40), Manufacturing industries of Canada, national and provincial areas (31-203-XPB, \$68) and Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers

(31-211-XPB, \$67). The 1995 issues of all of these publications are now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, look under contacts in the table below (fax: 613-951-9499; pentlii@statcan.ca).

Value of shipments

	1995	1996	1995 to 1996	Publication catalogue number	Contact	
	\$ millions		% change			
Industry (Standard Industry Classification)						
Fluid milk (1041)	3,441.9	3,558.9	3.4	32-250-XPB	P. Zylstra	613-951-3511
Potato chip, pretzel and popcorn (1093)	867.3	891.5	2.8	32-250-XPB	P. Zylstra	613-951-3511
Malt (1094)	266.4	386.7	45.1	32-250-XPB	P. Zylstra	613-951-3511
Brewery products (1131)	3,283.8	3,215.3	-2.1	32-251-XPB	P. Zylstra	613-951-3511
Other clothing and apparel, not elsewhere classified (2499)	481.2	488.5	1.5	34-252-XPB	R. Kowaluk	613-951-0600
Business forms printing (2811)	1,055.5	1,093.8	3.6	36-251-XPB	S. Boyer	613-951-5669
Other machinery and equipment, not elsewhere classified (3199)	5,812.9	6,036.4	3.8	42-250-XPB	J. Hosein	613-951-5704
Pharmaceutical and medicine (3741)	4,749.0	4,689.5	-1.3	46-250-XPB	N. Charron	613-951-3510
Toilet preparations (3771)	1,071.2	1,113.1	3.9	46-250-XPB	N. Charron	613-951-3510
Indicating, recording and controlling instruments (3911)	1,207.8	1,307.5	8.3		S. Boyer	613-951-5669
Ophthalmic goods (3914)	193.1	206.4	6.9		S. Boyer	613-951-5669
Sign and display (3971)	662.6	741.1	11.9		S. Boyer	613-951-5669

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Road motor vehicles, registrations, 1996
Catalogue number 53-219-XIB
 (Canada: \$21; outside Canada: US\$21).

Road motor vehicles, registrations, 1996
Catalogue number 53-219-XPB
 (Canada: \$28; outside Canada: US\$28).

Quarterly demographic statistics,
 October-December 1997
Catalogue number 91-002-XIB
 (Canada: \$8/\$25; outside Canada: US\$8/US\$25).

Quarterly demographic statistics,
 October-December 1997
Catalogue number 91-002-XPB
 (Canada: \$10/\$33; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$33).

All prices exclude sales tax.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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Thursday, June 5, 1997
 For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, sales ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 13

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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